

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a metal micropowder having a uniform particle diameter which comprises the sequential steps of:

preparing an aqueous solution in which ~~contains~~ two salts of metals having oxidation-reduction potentials which differ from each other are dissolved;

bringing [[a]] an organic reducing agent into contact with the aqueous solution in the presence of a protective colloid, whereby first precipitating micro-particles of a metal having a relatively low oxidation-reduction potential and then depositing a metal having a relatively high oxidation-reduction potential on the micro-particles, to produce double layered particles comprising the micro-particles of a metal of a relatively low oxidation-reduction potential coated with a metal of a relatively high oxidation-reduction potential; and

bringing the colloidal solution containing the double layered particles into contact with a third metal salt and [[a]] an organic reducing agent.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the colloidal solution containing the double layered particles is first mixed with the reducing agent and then a solution of the third metal salt is added to the mixed solution.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the reducing agent and a solution of the third metal salt are simultaneously added to the colloidal solution containing the double layered particles under mixing.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the metal having a relatively low oxidation-reduction potential is silver, copper, or tin, and the metal having a relatively high oxidation-reduction potential is palladium.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the third metal is palladium, palladium-silver alloy, platinum, silver, or nickel.

7-15. (Cancelled)